

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-43 (Canceled).

44. (Previously Presented) A method to produce an embossed web material, comprising at least two plies coupled to each other by gluing, including the following steps: embossing a first ply to produce thereon a first series of protuberances forming an embossed background pattern; applying ink to at least some of the protuberances of said first series to form a colored pattern; subsequently further embossing said first ply to produce thereon a second series of protuberances of a greater height and lesser density with respect to the protuberances of the first series and defining a decorative motif; applying a glue to at least some of the protuberances of said second series of protuberances; making a second ply adhere to the first ply by means of said glue.

45. (Previously Presented) Method as claimed in claim 44, wherein said first ply is embossed between a pressure roller and an embossing roller provided with protuberances defining said decorative motif, and wherein said glue is applied to said first ply while the first ply is still in contact with said embossing roller.

46. (Canceled).

47. (Canceled).

48. (Canceled).

49. (Canceled).

50. (Canceled).

51. (Previously Presented) Method as claimed in claim 44, wherein the protuberances of the first series have an average density ranging from 20 to 100 protuberances/cm².

52. (Previously Presented) Method as claimed in claim 44, wherein the protuberances of the first series occupy a percentage lower than 25% of total surface of the first ply.

53. (Previously Presented) Method as claimed in claim 44, wherein said glue is colored.

54. (Previously Presented) Method as claimed in claim 53, wherein said glue and said ink have different shades of a same color.

55. (Previously Presented) Method as claimed in claim 44, wherein said second ply is embossed with background embossing prior to coupling with the first ply.

56. (Currently Amended) Method as claimed in claim 55, wherein said background embossing of said second ply is ~~embossed with~~ provided by a third series of protuberances ~~forming a background pattern with~~ having an average density ranging from 20 to 100 protuberances/cm².

57. (Previously Presented) Method as claimed in claim 55, wherein the protuberances of said third series occupy a percentage below 25% of the total surface of the second ply.

58. (Previously Presented) Method as claimed in claim 44, wherein the decorative motif formed by the protuberances of the second series are distributed according to a density not exceeding 3 motifs/cm².

59. (Previously Presented) Method as claimed in claim 44, wherein said colored pattern is produced by printing the first ply.

60. (Previously Presented) Method as claimed in claim 59, wherein said first ply is micro-embossed after said colored pattern is applied.

61. (Previously Presented) Method as claimed in claim 44, wherein said embossed background pattern is distributed essentially uniformly over the entire surface of the ply.

62. (Previously Presented) Method as claimed in claim 44, wherein said colored pattern is constituted by stippling or by a series of lines.

63. (Canceled).

64. (Previously Presented) Method as claimed in claim 44, wherein said colored pattern is phased with said decorative motif to form a composite printed and embossed pattern.

Claims 65-90 (Canceled).

91. (New) A method to produce an embossed web material, comprising at least two plies coupled to each other by gluing, including the following steps: embossing a first ply to produce thereon a first series of protuberances forming an embossed background pattern; applying ink to at least some of the protuberances of said first series to form a colored pattern; subsequently further embossing said first ply to produce thereon a second series of protuberances of a greater height and lesser density with respect to the protuberances of the first series and defining a decorative motif; applying a glue to at least some of the protuberances of said second series of protuberances; making a second ply adhere to the first ply by means of said glue; wherein the protuberances of the first series have an average density ranging from 20 to 100 protuberances/cm²; and wherein said glue is colored.